the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

WELLS
GLEASON
MENYZ

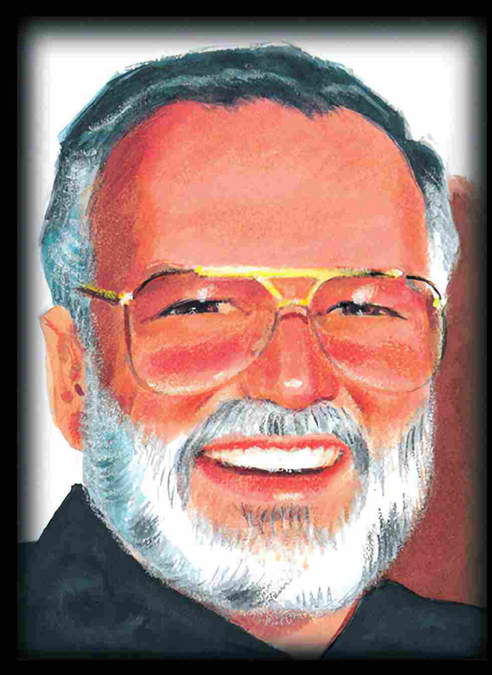
MARVEL

33

LGY#927

John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.

DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21*, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

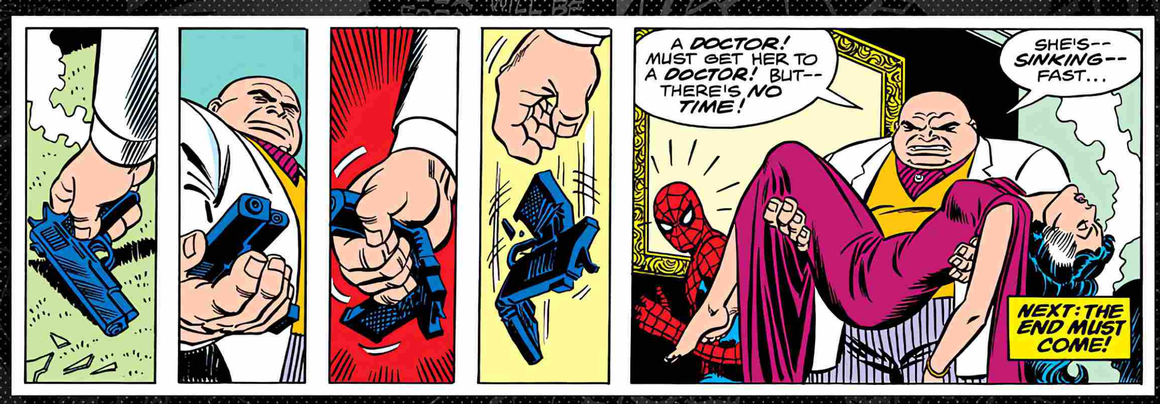
— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man #39*, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, Jazzy John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

IF YOU ASKED YESTERDAY, I'D HAVE TOLD YOU I DON'T KNOW WHY I KEEP IT.

BUT I *DO*. DEEP DOWN.

I DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND ANYMORE.

MY THOUGHTS ARE *RACING*, TRYING TO *OUTRUN* A *BLAZE*.

KRAVEN DID SOMETHING TO ME.

HE'S *ALWAYS* DOING SOMETHING TO ME.

AND HE GOES *UNPUNISHED*. BECAUSE I'M *THE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN*.

SPLAT

NO MORE OF THAT.

THE BLAZE IN MY HEAD GROWS *HOTTER*. MY THOUGHTS *SLOW*, ACCEPTING THEIR *FATE*.

I UNDERSTAND. KRAVEN ONLY LIT THE FIRE. A CHILD *PLAYING* WITH *MATCHES*.

THESE THOUGHTS WERE ALWAYS THERE, IN THE DRY BRUSH OF MY MIND.

I'D FEEL THEM, IN THE DARK OF NIGHT. THEY'D COME WITH THE MEMORIES OF--

THE GRAVE!

HE PUT ME IN A GRAVE.

THE BLAZE TAKES ME. MY THOUGHTS BURN.

I DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND!

I THINK ABOUT WHAT I'D DO TO HIM.

WHAT I'D *LIKE* TO DO.

IF I WASN'T SO... *FRIENDLY.*

PETER PARKER HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A ***SPIDER***, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED ***"SPIDER-SENSE"!*** AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BEN, PETER PARKER UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. HE BECAME THE CRIMEFIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

KRAVEN THE HUNTER and QUEEN GOBLIN teamed up to return NORMAN OSBORN'S disembodied sins to him. After mystically imbuing the sins into a spear, Kraven set forth to Oscorp headquarters to hunt down the reformed villain. His carefully laid plans went awry when Spider-Man took the spear hit in Norman's stead. Spidey may have prevented the return of GREEN GOBLIN, but with every foul deed Norman committed under that name coursing through Peter's veins, he may have created something much worse.

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SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY
STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

WHERE ARE YOU, PETER? YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT.

KRAVEN GOT YOU WITH HIS SPEAR. HE SAID IT--

NO.

KRAVEN'S A MADMAN. IT WAS A TRICK.

PETER'S FINE.

BUT YOU SAW!

DOOR'S UNLOCKED.

WHERE ARE YOU, PETER?

HIS FACE! IT LOOKED LIKE--

THE WINDOW...

--A MIRROR!

HE'S GONE OUT.

HE'S FINE.

BUT HIS FACE!

HE'S GONE OUT, AND HE'S FIGHTING CRIME.

LIKE HE DOES.

LIKE HE...

OH GOD.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, PETER?

Twice, it took him.

His madness.

Ran him down like a hobbled gazelle.

You ran!

I knew it would come for me.

That it would try to take me.

HA HA HA HA HA

But seeing its face...

You ran!

No.

I am Kraven the Hunter.

We do not run.

I will face the sins of my father.

I am my father!

I will face the madness that took him.

By his own hand!

I will kill it.

I will *hunt.*

But the weapons. Why do they seem so *HEAVY?*

You know!

Why can't I choose?

You know!

I don't want to be weighed down. Because--

You no longer hunt!

--I don't want to be *slowed* down.

My body KNOWS.

I am prey.

I've waited for this momen--

GAH!

THUNK

Injected me with--

Run!

What did he do to me?

YOU BETTER GET GOING.

Run!

I AM KRAVEN THE HUNTER.

I DO NOT--

RUN!

I am the gazelle.

Hobbled by my father's sins.

Say it!

I am Kraven...

...the *hunted.*

But...but not for the first time.

I've felt the fear of every animal I've taken.

Thought like them.

BECOME THEM.

I can be cornered.

But not surprised.

I see you, Spider.

I SEE YOU!

CRNCH!

ARRGH!

--Gurk!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS *EVER* SCARED OF YOU.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET YOU GET AWAY WITH WHAT YOU DID, FOR ALL THESE YEARS.

WALKING AROUND LIKE YOU DIDN'T *BURY ME ALIVE.*

I'M NOT...MY FATHER...

CLOSE ENOUGH.

HA.

Hngh!

He let me go.

Don't be a fool!

HA HA HA.

He...

He's *PLAYING* with me.

HAHAHAHAHA!

Stalking me from above.

Stalking... or herding?

End it!

No.

Get where he can't see me.

Get below.

See how the grave calls you?

Take away his advantage.

Dare him to follow me.

This is what he wants!

-Kaff!-

Down into the muck.

Think like prey.

You want to die!

Get distance.

Into the grave!

Deeper.

Confuse my tracks.

Farther.

To join your father!

Deeper.

STOP. YOU'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH...

...FOR THE SERUM TO WORK.

MY BLOOD IS HARDENED BY *FIRE.*

I DON'T *FEEL* A *THING.*

IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO WORK ON *YOU.*

Hssss...

SsSOMETHING SsSsmMELLLLS TASTY TASTY...

I JUST NEEDED YOU TO WORK UP A SWEAT.

SO THE PHEROMONES COULD WORK THEIR WAY THROUGH YOUR BODY...

...AND ATTRACT YOUR FRIENDS.

THE ONE WHO HITUSHURTUS.

YESSSS...

NO ONE HITSUSHURTSUS ANYMORE...

WE ARE MANY...

WE ARE VERMIN!

The Vermin my father bested.

CRACK

HSSSSSS!

The Spider brought me here to FAIL where my father succeeded.

There are too many!

DIEEEEEE!

AARGHH!

Lie down and die!

I see you watching, Spider.

I will not fail.

GYARRGHH!

I will not FALL!

COME ON, THEN!

AIEEEEE!

I am my father's son!

Yes!

I--

--AM--

--KRAVEN!

You will be buried like him!

No.

BITE HIM!

CLAW HIM!

You will follow him down!

Down!

GAH--

KILLsSsSs HIMMMM...

Down!

Down to the big nothing.

HHHHARK!

GAIEEEE!

SSSSPIDER!

SSSSPIDER!

STOP IT!

KRAK

THOK

HE HITSUSHURTSUS!

WE RUNNSSSS NOW! RUNNNSSS!

--Guh.

SHUNK

SHUNK

Hnnn...

SHUNK

WHA--?

HERE'S THIS.

IN CASE YOU WANT TO SKIP TO THE END.

N-NO...

NO--!

SLAM

PRETTY DAMN FINE DAY.

SHUNK

SHAK

SHAK

SHUNK

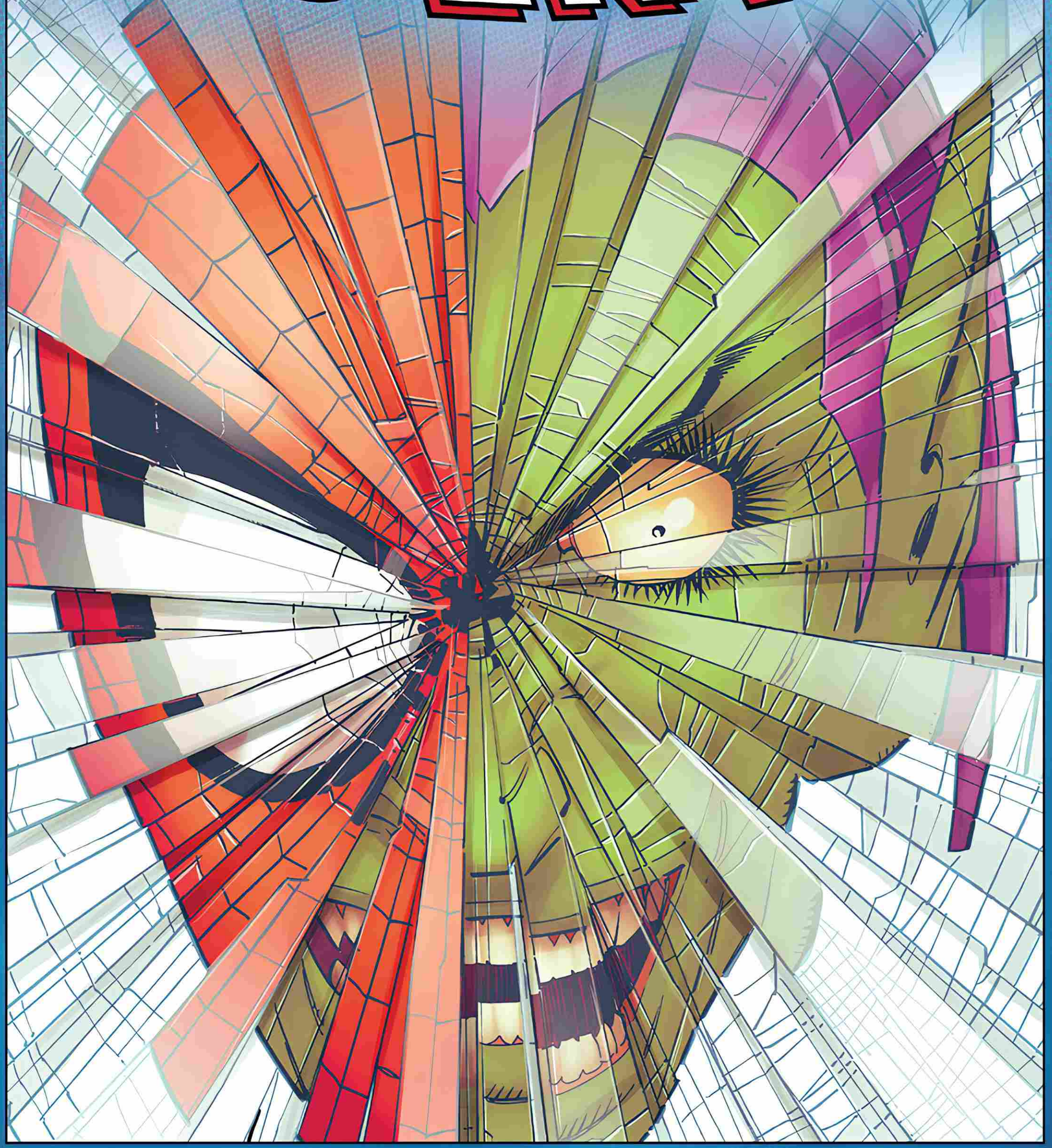
SHAK

SHAK

SHAK

TO BE CONTINUED!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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